

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Claims 14-19 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-9, 12 and 13 are pending and under consideration.

EXAMINER INTERVIEW

The Applicants extend their thanks to the Examiner for the courtesy shown to their representative during the telephone interview held on November 1, 2007.

GROUND FOR ENTRY OF THIS RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.116

The Applicants respectfully request entry of this Rule 116 Response because it is believed that the arguments and amendments put forward place these claims in condition for allowance. The present amendment clarifies and highlights features of the present invention that patentably distinguish over the relied reference.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-9, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Stitz et al. (US 6,105,724) (hereinafter "Stitz").

Claims 1-7

Amended claim 1 recites: "...the amount of the lubricant oil to be supplied is preset for each of three or more divided rotational speed regions of the rolling bearing assembly and one of the preset amounts of the lubricant oil to be supplied is selected according to an input information on the rotational speed." In the Office Action, in the "Response to Arguments" section, the Examiner appears to take the position that the Applicants were only arguing that claim 1 recites supplying lubricant as a function of speed. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 recites supplying a **preset amount of lubricant for each of three or more divided rotational speed regions** of the rolling bearing assembly.

The technical feature of a plurality of divided rotational speed regions of the rolling bearing assembly patentably distinguishes over Stitz. As pointed out by the Examiner, Stitz does recognize rotational speed as a parameter. See Stitz, 6:1-6:8. However, Stitz does not break the speed down into rotational speed regions. Nor does Stitz break the parameters that are focus of the disclosure of Stitz – namely temperature and vibration – into regions where a

particular or preset amount of lubricant is supplied to each region. To the contrary, the controlled supply of lubricant in Stitz is directed to adapt the bearing lubrication very sensitively to wear, which implies a direct relationship to the parameter and the metered quantity of lubrication. See Stitz, 8:4-8:9.

The specification of the present invention discusses in detail the advantages of the technical feature of claim 1 of adjusting the amount of lubricant by dividing the rotational speed into multiple rotational speed regions and presetting the amount of lubricant for each of the rotational speed regions. Further, Figures 4 and 5 show test results documenting these advantages. Specifically, if the lubricating conditions are changed according to the rotational speed regions, a stable temperature rise can be exhibited while the reliability of lubrication is secured from low speed rotation to high speed rotation.

Claims 2-7 depend on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

Claims 8, 9, 12 and 13

Amended claim 8 recites: "...the amount of the lubricant oil to be supplied is preset for each of three or more divided rotational speed regions of the rolling bearing assembly and the supply adjusting unit is operable to select one of the preset amounts of the lubricant oil to be supplied according to an input information on the rotational speed."

In the Office Action, in the "Response to Arguments" section, the Examiner appears to take the position that the Applicants were only arguing that claim 8 recites supplying lubricant as a function of speed. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 recites supplying a **preset** amount of lubricant **for each of three or more divided rotational speed regions** of the rolling bearing assembly.

The technical feature of three or more divided rotational speed regions of the rolling bearing assembly patentably distinguishes over Stitz. As pointed out by the Examiner, Stitz does recognize rotational speed as a parameter. See Stitz, 6:1-6:8. However, Stitz does not break the speed down into rotational speed regions. Nor does Stitz break the parameters that are focus of the disclosure of Stitz – namely temperature and vibration – into regions where a particular or preset amount of lubricant is supplied to each region. To the contrary, the

controlled supply of lubricant in Stitz is directed to adapt the bearing lubrication very sensitively to wear, which implies a direct relationship to the parameter and the metered quantity of lubrication. See Stitz, 8:4-8:9.

The specification of the present invention discusses in detail the advantages of the technical feature of claim 8 of adjusting the amount of lubricant by dividing the rotational speed into multiple rotational speed regions and presetting the amount of lubricant for each of the rotational speed regions. Further, Figures 4 and 5 show test results documenting these advantages. Specifically, if the lubricating conditions are changed according to the rotational speed regions, a stable temperature rise can be exhibited while the reliability of lubrication is secured from low speed rotation to high speed rotation.

Claims 9, 12 and 13 depend on claim 8 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 7, 2007

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